

Message Text

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70

ORIGIN ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SCA-01 ORM-03 SR-02 IO-14 L-03 PM-07

NSC-10 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 H-03

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SCA:FSMITH (PHONE)

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P 251908Z OCT 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SANTIAGO PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: PINT, SREF, PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: UNHCR APPEAL TO U.S. TO ADMIT CHILEAN REFUGEES

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED CABLE FROM UN HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES REQUESTING THAT U.S. URGENTLY CONSIDER OFFERING PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO FOREIGN REFUGEES IN CHILE. DEPARTMENT IS STUDYING REQUEST AND WOULD APPRECIATE EMBASSY'S VIEWS. (FYI: OF THE 2,000 REFUGEES MENTIONED IN THE UNHCR CABLE, NEW YORK OFFICES OF UNHCR INFORMED DEPARTMENT OFFICERS THAT ABOUT 100 HAVE INDICATED "NORTH AMERICA" (PRESUMABLY INCLUDES CANADA) AS THEIR FIRST CHOICE FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT. END FYI.)

2. TEXT OF THE UNHCR'S CABLE TO SECRETARY KISSINGER FOLLOWS: QUOTE: I HAVE THE HONOUR TO BRING TO YOUR EXCELLENCY'S ATTENTION THE PROBLEM OF REFUGEES UNDER MY MANDATE IN CHILE, WHO ARE URGENTLY SEEKING PERMANENT RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE THAT COUNTRY. DURING THE
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RECENT SESSION OF MY EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE WHICH CLOSED ON

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER, REPRESENTATIVES OF MEMBER GOVERNMENTS
VOICED THEIR CONCERN FOR THE SITUATION OF THESE REFUGEES
AND A CABLE WAS SENT TO THE GOVERNMENT OF CHILE BY THE
CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE ON ITS BEHALF, EXPRES-
SING THE HOPE THAT THE GOVERNMENT WOULD COOPERATE IN
PROMOTING RAPID SOLUTIONS FOR THESE REFUGEES, TAKING INTO
ACCOUNT THEIR NEED FOR PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE. THE

REGISTRATION OF REFUGEES IN CHILE WHO ARE SEEKING
RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES IS STILL PROCEEDING. MY
REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVE IN LATIN AMERICA, WHO IS AT
PRESENT IN SANTIAGO, INFORMS ME THAT AS OF TODAY, THEIR
NUMBER HAS REACHED SOME 2,000 AND THAT THIS FIGURE IS
LIKELY TO INCREASE AS REGISTRATION CONTINUES. A NUMBER OF
THESE REFUGEES HAVE EXPRESSED THE DESIRE TO RESETTLE IN
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA. IN VIEW OF THIS DESIRE AND OF
THE NEED FOR SPEEDY RESETTLEMENT ARRANGEMENTS, I APPEAL
TO YOUR GOVERNMENT TO CONSIDER OFFERING PERMANENT
RESETTLEMENT OPPORTUNITIES TO AS MANY OF THESE REFUGEES AS
POSSIBLE. IN VIEW OF THE SERIOUS NATURE OF THE PROBLEM I
SHOULD BE DEEPLY GRATEFUL IF YOUR GOVERNMENT COULD GIVE
THIS MATTER ITS MOST URGENT ATTENTION. I WOULD FURTHER
STRESS THAT AN EARLY INDICATION OF THE EXTENT TO WHICH
YOUR GOVERNMENT COULD HELP BY OFFERING PERMANENT RESETTLE-
MENT OPPORTUNITIES WOULD ENABLE MY OFFICE TO ORGANIZE AND
CARRY OUT THE RESETTLEMENT OPERATION WITH THE SPEED AND
EFFICIENCY SO VITALLY REQUIRED IN VIEW OF THE HUMANITARIAN
ASPECTS INVOLVED. A COPY OF THIS CABLE IS BEING SENT TO
THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF
AMERICA TO THE UNITED NATIONS IN GENEVA. ACCEPT SIR, THE
ASSURANCES OF MY HIGHEST CONSIDERATION. SADRUDDIN AGA
KHAN, UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES. END
QUOTE.
KISSINGER

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